

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 952
By DuBois

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend George Martin
Armstrong upon being honored with the Maury
Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those estimable farmers who, through their professional and personal endeavors, serve as a cornerstone for their respective communities and as a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy Tennessean is George Martin Armstrong of Maury County, who recently was awarded the Maury Alliance's Century Farm of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the Century Farm Program was established to recognize the dedication and contributions of families who have retained ownership of the same farm for over a century, thus persevering through several generations, as they have coped with wars, floods, droughts, economic crises, and other obstacles presented by way of natural and human intervention; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Armstrong's farm has been in his family for nearly two centuries; six generations of Armstrongs have raised cattle and tilled the soil on the Hampshire Pike property since they first settled there in 1807 after moving from South Carolina to settle on a portion of a land grant originally given to Revolutionary War hero General Nathan Greene; and

WHEREAS, James and Mary Frierson Armstrong established the homestead in 1807 on 205 acres of land; in 1837, the land passed to one of the founders' seven children, William Gordon Armstrong; and

WHEREAS, the third generation owner of the farm was William James Armstrong, who operated the farm until it was divided among his children at the turn of the century; William Clay Armstrong bought the shares of his brothers and sisters to become the fourth owner, and he later introduced Holstein cattle to Maury County; and

WHEREAS, his son, George Martin Armstrong, inherited partial ownership of the farm in 1955 and became the sole owner nineteen years later; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Armstrong traces his personal involvement with the farm to his childhood, having worked the land for the majority of his ninety years; he began his farm duties in 1924 at age ten by milking sixty cows without the aid of a milking machine; and

WHEREAS, over the years, he has seen both good times and bad, and he possesses a wealth of stories gleaned from a lifetime spent in historic times; stories such as those of the German prisoners of war who worked on the farm during World War II are an integral and fascinating piece of the historical fabric of Maury County; and

WHEREAS, the Armstrong farm continues to be a stalwart business entity in Maury County; its 122 acres, of crops and beef cattle are a reassuring constant in these times of great change; and

WHEREAS, George Martin Armstrong epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Armstrong for his dedication to agriculture and his recognition of the importance of the family farm in our society, to his community, and to the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend George Martin Armstrong upon winning the Century Farm of the Year Award, presented by the Maury Alliance in honor of six generations of the Armstrong family's unsurpassed contributions to the agriculture in Maury County, and we extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.